



**JAN BREWER**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**STATE OF ARIZONA**

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Richard Elias  
Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
130 W. Congress  
Tucson, Arizona 85701-1317

Dear Chairman Elias:

During recent testimony provided at the Arizona State Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, I was surprised to learn that Pima County has been providing partisan party representatives live ballots prior to the election, and further, allowing these same political individuals to remove these ballots from the election offices for purposes of generating an "independent" logic and accuracy test. In the ensuing days since that hearing, the Pima County Elections Office confirmed this practice.

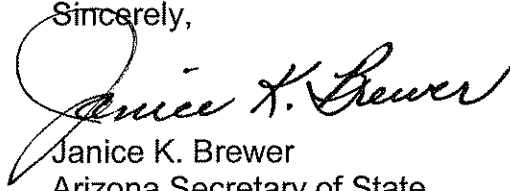
That Pima County would allow such a massive election security breach is itself a shocking development, especially given the recent high profile efforts by your county to increase voting security. Quite simply, allowing partisan party members to take live ballots for their own use and away from the direct oversight of election officials – no matter how well meaning – provides an opportunity for reproduction of the ballots. After having spoken to election officials from throughout the state on this issue, it is clear that such monumental security risks in providing unauthorized individuals access to blank ballots, is a practice not shared by any other county.

I also note that there is absolutely no basis for this practice in law, nor any such provision within the Secretary of State Election Procedures Manual. I can't help but wonder under what authority your election officials have implemented such a fundamental security breach, and am certain nevertheless, that this is extremely bad public policy. It also comes as no surprise that Pima County stands alone in its support of the most recent legislative effort to legitimize this detrimental policy.

I have attached a copy of this letter to Senator Chuck Gray, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and to Senator Karen Johnson with the hopes that they will take corrective action at the legislature to ensure this practice does not continue.

Lastly, let me be clear, I do believe the political parties play an important role in the election process. The law very clearly provides party representatives the right to be present and to participate during the testing and tabulation of all ballots by the election officials. Moreover, the parties play a critical statutory role in conducting the post election hand count and audit. Party representatives, like any other unauthorized individual, should not, however, be provided unsupervised access to blank ballots, under any circumstances. I urge you to take immediate action concerning this serious security issue.

Sincerely,



Janice K. Brewer  
Arizona Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Chuck Gray, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Karen Johnson, Arizona State Senate  
The Honorable Terry Goddard, Attorney General  
The Honorable Ann Day, County Supervisor  
The Honorable Ramon Valadez, County Supervisor  
The Honorable Sharon Bronson, County Supervisor  
The Honorable Ray Carroll, County Supervisor  
The Honorable Barbara LaWall, County Attorney  
Charles Huckelberry, County Administrator

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